

JANUARY 2, 1976

THE CUBAN ROAD TO ANGOLA

ANNCR: WHILE AMERICAN AND AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES CONTINUE IN AN EFFORT TO END THE FIGHTING IN ANGOLA, CUBAN TROOPS AND SOVIET-SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT CONTINUE TO BE SHIPPED TO SUPPORT ONE OF THE FACTIONS THERE. VOA NEWS ANALYST EDWARD CONLEY HAS THESE OBSERVATIONS:

TEXT: AT A MEETING THIS WEEK, THE HEADS OF STATE OF UGANDA, ZAIRE AND THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE PLEDGING TO STOP THE PASSAGE OF TROOPS OF ANY COUNTRY WHICH TRY TO TRAVEL THROUGH THEIR TERRITORIES TO FIGHT IN ANGOLA. ACCORDING TO THE LEADERS, IT WOULD MAKE NO DIFFERENCE WHICH OF THE THREE FACTIONS IN ANGOLA THE FOREIGN TROOPS WERE PLANNING TO ASSIST. THERE MUST BE AN END TO THE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE ANGOLAN PROBLEM, THEY SAID, AND THE FORMATION THERE OF A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION, AS URGED BY THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY.

YET, CUBAN TROOPS AND SOVIET-SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT CONTINUE TO ARRIVE IN ANGOLA IN AN ATTEMPT TO HELP ONE FACTION. AND THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HAS OBJECTED STRONGLY TO THE SOVIET AND CUBAN INTERVENTION IN THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT AFRICAN COUNTRY, IS MAKING IT CLEAR THAT THE COMMUNIST MOVE IN ANGOLA IS GETTING AN UNNECESSARY ASSIST FROM OTHER NATIONS.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS PUBLICLY EXPRESSED AMERICAN OBJECTION TO ALL COUNTRIES WHICH ALLOW THEIR AIRFIELDS TO BE USED IN CONNECTION WITH THE MOVEMENT OF CUBAN TROOPS AND SOVIET EQUIPMENT TO ANGOLA...A MOVEMENT DESCRIBED AS "ARMED FOREIGN INTERVENTION." THE WARNING WAS ISSUED IN WASHINGTON ON FRIDAY, AS UNSPECIFIED AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MATTER WERE UNDERWAY.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HAS CALLED FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN TROOPS FROM ANGOLA AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COALITION GOVERNMENT THERE, CONTINUED ITS DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO THAT END AS A SENIOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL TOURED AFRICAN CAPITALS.

IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY APPARENT THAT AFRICAN STATES -- THROUGH THE O.A.U. -- MUST TAKE THE LEAD IN GETTING RID OF ANGOLA'S FOREIGN INTRUDERS AND BRINGING TO A PEACEFUL CONCLUSION THAT COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS.

STRONG PUBLIC REACTION IN THE UNITED STATES HAS COME CLOSE TO LIMITING THE AMERICAN ROLE IN THE ISSUE TO A DIPLOMATIC ONE. WHILE SOME AID IS STILL BEING CHANNELED TO THE AREA, THE U.S. SENATE ALREADY HAS VOTED TO CUT OFF FUNDS TO AID FACTIONS FIGHTING IN ANGOLA.

SPOKESMEN HERE IN WASHINGTON HAVE STRONGLY DENIED A NEWSPAPER REPORT THAT THE UNITED STATES IS TRAINING MERCENARIES FOR THE ANGOLA FIGHTING. BUT GIVEN THE AMERICAN PUBLIC MOOD AGAINST INVOLVEMENT IN FAR-OFF WARS, THE REPORT ITSELF WILL PROBABLY WEIGH HEAVY IN DISCUSSION OF THE SENATE'S ANGOLA AID CUTOFF VOTE WHEN CONGRESS CONVENES LATER THIS MONTH.

WHAT IS NEEDED THEN IS A STRONG AFRICAN INITIATIVE IN COUNTERING FOREIGN INTERFERENCE ON ITS CONTINENT. ALSO, THE REALIZATION BY A NUMBER OF OTHER NATIONS THAT REFUSING THE USE OF THEIR AIRFIELDS FOR THE PASSAGE OF CUBAN TROOPS AND SOVIET WAR EQUIPMENT WOULD AID THE AFRICAN TASK GREATLY.